TechNews is a guide to share information regarding deadlines, events and software version release dates. The intended audiences are PCHA and FPA-PM application users. New FPA updates, changes and work arounds to PCHA and FPA-PM are listed below. Web site links relative to the software updates are also highlighted.

New FPU Creation Process:

Several questions have been raised regarding the process for establishing new FPUs. There are several steps that need to be completed in this process:

1. Coordinate with adjoining FPUs – All the local partners involved must agree to the change.
2. All participants should understand the delay in changing budget with the 2 year planning cycle. The following table shows the delay for the FPU named "Floor" with Fire Management Units A, B, C, D, and E as it is split into FPUs named "Rug" (FMUs A, B, and D) and "Tile" (FMUs C and E)

Units	Calendar Year				
	2005	**2006**	**2007**	**2008**	**2009**
FPU "Floor" contains FMUs A, B, C, D, E	All participate in FPU "Floor"	FPU split, budget for all FMUs in FPU "Floor", planning in 2 new FPUs	FPU split, budget for all FMUs in FPU "Floor", planning in 2 new FPUs	FPU "Floor" no longer receives any budget	
FPU "Rug" contains FMUs A, B, D		FPU "Rug" plans for budget in FY 2008. Current year budget derived from FPU "Floor"	FPU "Rug" plans for budget in FY 2009. Current year budget derived from FPU Floor"	Current year budget derived from FPU "Rug" analysis	Current year budget derived from FPU "Rug" analysis
FPU "Tile" contains FMUs C, E		FPU "Tile"plans for budget in FY 2008. Current year budget derived from FPU "Floor"	FPU "Tile" plans for budget in FY 2009. Current year budget derived from FPU "Floor"	Current year budget derived from FPU "Tile" analysis	Current year budget derived from FPU "Tile" analysis

3. Ensure there is agreement with the change at the geographic area level.
4. Develop new or revised FMU shapefiles for use in FPA-PM and PCHA.
5. Request a FPU unique identifier from the fire helpdesk.
6. Create new and FPU and enjoy!

Remember: FPU boundaries are frozen from October 1 to March 31 of each year while FPA-PM analysis is ongoing.

FTP Sites and Storage
Please note: FTP sites should be used for large file transfer only. The agency FTP sites are "way/weigh" stations only. They are not intended for long-term storage. One site recently crashed due to an overload and all the files older than May, 2005 posting were deleted. To transfer large FPA related files: Please, place them on the FTP site, contact the individual receiving them, and remove them as soon as the transfer has been completed. Thank You.

Viewing the FPU maps in FPA when the dataset has been submitted. Unfortunately, that function is not available in a submitted dataset. If it is essential that the map be viewed to be sure everything "looks good", copy the submitted dataset to a working state and then view the map.

Exporting the FPU shapefile and then importing that file back into PM to start a new analysis. The exported shapefile does not have the necessary components to successfully import to PM. Only a shapefile developed external to PM that has the correct database underlying it can be imported.

- The most recent instructions for generating and importing shapefiles to establish a FPU are currently available on the FPA website at: Creating an FMU shapefile for FPA-PM . Previous instructions should be discarded.

FPU Analyses Naming: Please do not use a character other than an alpha or numeric as the FIRST character of the name. Most likely it will create problems with Excel™ reports.

> **Example: BAD = "+50%/-50% Analysis of Base"**
> **GOOD = "Analysis of +/- 50% of Base Funding"**

Success rate of Fire Events contained in FPA-PM
Fires not contained are not ignored; they go into the "bucket" for treatment in Phase 2. When all the modules within FPA are complete all fires must be contained. It is also important to remember that the measure of success " successful if the fire is contained in the first burning period", is not the same measurement as the 18 hour time frame used for the FPA-PM optimization.

Capital Cost Premiums
FPA-PM may provide some justification for both types of funding, but the actual dollars are not part of the FPA-PM budget request. The "tax" is used to determine the viability of a new resource or facility capacity expansion and is also not included in the budget.

> **These figures are:**
- used only to "tax" the potential purchase of a new resource or construction of extended capacity.
- the funding for resource(s) or facility expansion does not come through the FPA-PM system.